

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) A process for the microcrystallization of polyols into a polyol composition, comprising the steps of:

- (a) spraying a liquid feed of at least two dissolved polyols containing at least 25% by weight of each of the at least two polyols at the dry solids concentration of 60-90%, which are selected from the group consisting of maltitol, xylitol and lactitol into contact with a gas suspended dry feed of small crystals containing the same polyols so as to wet the surface of said dry feed particles with said liquid feed, wherein the ratio of liquid feed to dry feed is between 2:1 and 1:4;
- (b) evaporating the solvent of said liquid feed causing microcrystallization of said dissolved polyols on said dry feed particles and drying in the gas suspended state to a free moisture content of 0.5 – 3%; and
- (c) conditioning the microcrystallized particles at a temperature of 40 – 90 °C to provide a solid randomly agglomerated microcrystalline polyol composition with microcrystals 5-10 micrometers in size, a free moisture content 0.05% - 0.5%, wherein the ratio of said at least two polyols in said feeds being such that the resulting microcrystalline composition contains 25% to 75% by weight of each of said at least two polyols;

(d) Optionally milling the dried randomly agglomerated microcrystalline polyol composition from step c) to a mean particle size of 0.1 – 0.4 mm.

59. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 58, wherein said liquid feed comprises a solution containing said at least two polyols dissolved in water at a total concentration of about 60-90% on DS.

60. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 58, wherein said liquid feed comprises separate solutions of each of said at least two polyols dissolved in water, said separate solutions being simultaneously sprayed onto said dry feed particles.

61. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 58, wherein said liquid feed comprises separate solutions of each of said at least two polyols dissolved in water, said separate solutions being separately and intermittently sprayed onto said dry feed particles.

62. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 58, wherein the dry feed comprises recirculated microcrystallized polyol composition milled and/or sieved to a particle size of less than 200 μm .

63. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 58, wherein the dry feed comprises recirculated microcrystallized polyol composition milled and/or sieved to a particle size of less than 100 μm .

64. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 58, wherein the ratio of liquid feed to dry feed is between 1:1 and 1:2 on DS.

65. (Previously Presented) A process according to any one of claims 58-64, wherein said liquid feed and/or dry feed contains a minor portion of an excipient, an active or inert ingredient and/or other sweetener than maltitol, xylitol or lactitol.

66. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 58, wherein the dry feed comprises a powder containing core material selected from the group consisting of milled crystals of said at least two polyols, milled crystals and/or microcrystals of another polyol, milled crystals, microcrystals and/or powders of other inert or active ingredient(s), said core material being milled and/or sieved to a particle size of less than 200 μm .

67. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 66, wherein said core material being milled and/or sieved to a particle size of less than 100 μm .

68. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 66, wherein said gas suspended particles are retained in a suspended state until they have grown to a predetermined weight.

69. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 58, wherein the microcrystallized particles are collected from the suspended state on a surface to form a porous agglomerated powder layer.

70. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 58, wherein the microcrystallized particles are conditioned at a temperature of about 40-90 °C to a free moisture content below 1%.

71. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 58, wherein the microcrystallized particles are conditioned at temperature of about 67-70 °C to a free moisture content below 1%.

72. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 69, wherein the conditioned agglomerated layer is crushed to provide a granular product having a mean granule size of, on an average, 0.05 to 2 mm.

73. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 69, wherein the conditioned agglomerated layer is crushed to provide a granular product having a mean granule size of, on an average, 0.1 to 0.4 mm.

74. (Canceled)

75. (New) A process for the microcrystallization of polyols into a polyol composition, comprising the steps of:

- (a) spraying a liquid feed of dissolved xylitol and maltitol containing at least 25% by weight of each at the dry solids concentration of 60-90% into contact with a gas suspended dry feed of small crystals containing xylitol and maltitol so as to wet the surface of said dry

feed particles with said liquid feed, wherein the ratio of liquid feed to dry feed is between 2:1 and 1:4;

- (b) evaporating the solvent of said liquid feed causing microcrystallization of said dissolved xylitol and maltitol on said dry feed particles and drying in the gas suspended state to a free moisture content of 0.5 – 3%; and
- (c) conditioning the microcrystallized particles at a temperature of 65-72 °C to provide a solid randomly agglomerated microcrystalline xylitol-maltitol composition with microcrystals 5- 10 micrometers in size, a free moisture content 0.05% - 0.5% and melts at 90 °C,
wherein the ratio of xylitol and maltitol in said feeds being such that the resulting microcrystalline composition contains 25% to 75% by weight of xylitol and maltitol;
- (d) optionally milling the dried randomly agglomerated microcrystalline polyol composition from step c) to a mean particle size of 0.1 – 0.4 mm.